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(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL99/00689 (22) International Filing Date: 11 November 1999 (11.11.99) (30) Priority Data: 1010531 11 November 1998 (11.11.98) NL (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): VACUMETAL B.V. [NL/NL]; Gouden Ridderstraat 5-7, NL-4903 RD Oosterhout (NL). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SCHRAUWEN, Cornelis, Petrus, Gerardus [NL/NL]; De Wuurde 78, NL-6662 NB Elst (NL). SCHUURMANS, Antonius, Jacobus, Willem [NL/BE]; Dennenlei 6, B-2900 Schoten (BE). SCHUURMANS, Gilbert, Cornelis, Hendricus [NL/NL]; Hooivorkstraat 45, NL-4904 VG Oosterhout (NL). (74) Agent: EVELEENS MAARSE, Pieter; Arnold & Siedsma, Sweelinckplein 1, NL-2517 GK The Hague (NL).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BI, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>In English translation (filed in Dutch).</i>
(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR COATING OBJECTS THROUGH PVD		
(57) Abstract <p>The invention relates to an apparatus (1) for applying at least one coating to objects by means of vapour deposition (PVD) under vacuum, comprising: a preprocessing device (3) for performing a preprocessing on the object; a PVD device (2) for coating an object under a vacuum; and a postprocessing device (4) for postprocessing the objects, wherein: the apparatus comprises a transport device (5) which extends through the preprocessing device, the PVD device and the postprocessing device, the transport device is adapted to transport objects arranged on carriers, and the PVD device is adapted for semi-continuous treatment of objects arranged on the carriers.</p>		

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